

# Verbal Reasoning 1

Read the following with your child:

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1. This is a multiple-choice paper in which you have to mark your answer to each question on the separate answer sheet.
  2. The paper contains a number of different types of question. Each question type starts with an explanation of what to do, followed by a worked example and solution with the answer marked on the answer sheet.
  3. Some questions require more than one answer to be marked. Read the instructions carefully.
  4. Draw a firm line clearly through the rectangle next to your answer like this . If you make a mistake, rub it out as completely as you can and put in your new answer.
  5. Be sure to keep your place on the answer sheet. Mark your answer in the column that has the same number as the question in the booklet.
  6. You may find some of the questions difficult. If you cannot do a question, **do not waste time on it but go on to the next**. If you are not sure of an answer, choose the one you think is best.
  7. **Work as quickly and as carefully as you can.**
- 

Familiarisation



In this question, one letter can be moved from the first word to the second word to make two new words.

The letters must **not** otherwise be rearranged and **both** new words must make sense.

Find the letter that moves and mark it on the answer sheet.

**Example**

pound or

A p      B o      C u      D n      E d

**Answer**

u

**Solution**

The answer is **u**: when removed from the word 'pound', we get a new word '**pond**' and when added to the word 'or' we get a new word '**our**'. The letters have not otherwise been rearranged and both new words make sense.

1

metal though

A m      B e      C t      D a      E l

2

liner bother

A l      B i      C n      D e      E r

3

biased pant

A b      B i      C a      D s      E d

4

chomp tea

A c      B h      C o      D m      E p

5

player fight

A p      B l      C a      D y      E r

6

brain    tale

A b            B r            C a            D i            E n

7

flower    lit

A f            B l            C o            D w            E r

In these questions, the **same** letter must fit into **both** sets of brackets, to complete the word in front of the brackets and begin the word after the brackets.

Find this letter and mark it on the answer sheet.

**Example**    mea [?] able    si [?] op

A p            B n            C f            D t            E c

**Answer**    **t**

**Solution**    The same letter that fits into both sets of brackets to form four words is 't'  
(the four new words are **meat, table, sit, top**).

8

wor [?] en    fin [?] ice

A m            B t            C d            D s            E n

9

loo [?] eak    wee [?] ull

A b            B k            C m            D p            E s

10

roo [?] ick    oa [?] ind

A t            B r            C m            D f            E k

11

car [?] ip      fac [?] rust

A t      B d      C p      D c      E e

12

chee [?] ang      spea [?] ide

A s      B r      C b      D p      E k

13

pe [?] et      cla [?] umber

A w      B g      C p      D l      E n

14

her [?] ut      pol [?] asis

A b      B o      C e      D l      E d

---

In these questions, the three words in the second group should go together in the **same way** as the three in the first group.

Find the word that is missing in the second group and mark it on the answer sheet.

**Example**

(man [mat] tip)

(bug [ ? ] dew)

A bud      B beg      C dug      D bed      E wed

**Answer**

**bud**

**Solution**

The first two letters of 'man' and the first letter of 'tip' are put together to make the word 'mat'. In the same way, the first two letters of the word 'bug' and the first letter of the word 'dew' are put together to make the word **'bud'**.

15

(staff [not] gnome)

(epoch [ ? ] image)

A gem      B map      C hip      D ham      E mop

16

(puzzle [zip] boiler)

(nettle [ ? ] brands)

**A** tan

**B** tee

**C** ten

**D** tar

**E** tab

17

(kiosk [sky] syrup)

(agile [ ? ] upset)

**A** use

**B** lip

**C** pea

**D** gap

**E** lap

18

(pedal [idea] saint)

(swamp [ ? ] issue)

**A** swap

**B** saps

**C** sums

**D** saws

**E** swim

19

(relax [axe] exists)

(jewel [ ? ] byway)

**A** eel

**B** ale

**C** eye

**D** awe

**E** ewe

20

(occupy [cape] repeat)

(snouts [ ? ] chisel)

**A** once

**B** hens

**C** nets

**D** oils

**E** nest

21

(thigh [hat] atlas)

(dwarf [ ? ] moths)

**A** for

**B** who

**C** was

**D** oar

**E** wad

In each question, find the number that continues the series in the most sensible way and mark it on the answer sheet.

**Example**     2   4   6   8   [ ? ]

**A** 16        **B** 11        **C** 10        **D** 9        **E** 12

**Answer**     **10**

**Solution**     In this series, you add 2 each time. For other series, you might have to perform a different sort of operation (+, −, ×, ÷). There might also be two series involved: the first comprising the 1st, 3rd, 5th number etc. and the second comprising the 2nd, 4th, 6th etc.

**22**

27   26   28   25   29   24   30   [ ? ]

**A** 33        **B** 29        **C** 25        **D** 23        **E** 31

**23**

4   8   11   15   18   [ ? ]

**A** 21        **B** 20        **C** 25        **D** 22        **E** 28

**24**

28   32   25   27   22   22   19   17   16   [ ? ]

**A** 15        **B** 13        **C** 12        **D** 14        **E** 11

**25**

20   23   27   32   38   [ ? ]

**A** 45        **B** 48        **C** 46        **D** 39        **E** 51

**26**

57   56   54   52   50   47   45   41   39   [ ? ]

**A** 32        **B** 31        **C** 35        **D** 33        **E** 34

27

88 92 90 95 92 98 94 101 [ ? ]

A 100      B 95      C 93      D 96      E 99

28

2 5 14 41 [ ? ]

A 122      B 84      C 62      D 140      E 112

---

Read the following information, then find the correct answer to the question and mark it on the answer sheet.

29

At the shops Darren bought 8 oranges.

Laura bought 3 oranges fewer than Chris.

Rosario bought 3 oranges fewer than Darren and 1 fewer than Chris.

**How many oranges did Laura buy?**

A 1      B 9      C 3      D 5      E 2



In these questions, find **two** words, **one** from each group, that are **most opposite in meaning**. Mark **both** words on the answer sheet.

**Example** (morning early wake) (late shop dark)

**A** morning **X** late  
**B** early **Y** shop  
**C** wake **Z** dark

**Answer** **early late**

**Solution** The two words, one from each group, that are **most opposite in meaning** are 'early' from group one and 'late' from group two.

30

(break ignore hit) (poke miss aim)

**A** break **X** poke  
**B** ignore **Y** miss  
**C** hit **Z** aim

31

(cheap price cost) (amount dear expense)

**A** cheap **X** amount  
**B** price **Y** dear  
**C** cost **Z** expense

32

(complex superior modern) (old new fresh)

**A** complex **X** old  
**B** superior **Y** new  
**C** modern **Z** fresh

33

(lock close away)

- A lock
- B close
- C away

(key distant shut)

- X key
- Y distant
- Z shut

34

(hobby usual rarely)

- A hobby
- B usual
- C rarely

(habit often seldom)

- X habit
- Y often
- Z seldom

35

(heavy glow stiff)

- A heavy
- B glow
- C stiff

(shine hard flexible)

- X shine
- Y hard
- Z flexible

36

(approximate true close)

- A approximate
- B true
- C close

(broad precise rough)

- X broad
- Y precise
- Z rough

37

(transparent clear hollow)

- A transparent
- B clear
- C hollow

(empty vague glass)

- X empty
- Y vague
- Z glass

In these sentences, a word of **four letters** is hidden at the **end** of one word and the **beginning** of the next word.

Find the pair of words that contains the hidden word and mark this answer on the answer sheet.

**Example**      The film ended happily after all.

- A The film
- B film ended
- C ended happily
- D happily after
- E after all.

**Answer**      **film ended**

**Solution**      In this sentence, the hidden four-letter word is '**mend**', which is made up of the last letter of the word '**film**' and the first three letters of the word '**ended**'. So the pair of words that contains the hidden word is '**film ended**'.

38

They were not alerted at once.

- A They were
- B were not
- C not alerted
- D alerted at
- E at once.

39

The shampoo left bubbles in the bath.

- A The shampoo
- B shampoo left
- C left bubbles
- D bubbles in
- E in the

40

Visitors wandered around the colourful gardens.

- A Visitors wandered
- B wandered around
- C around the
- D the colourful
- E colourful gardens.

41

She tried to grasp another rope.

- A She tried
- B tried to
- C to grasp
- D grasp another
- E another rope.

42

The rhinoceros escaped from the cage.

- A The rhinoceros
- B rhinoceros escaped
- C escaped from
- D from the
- E the cage.

43

He hid the banjo inside the cupboard.

- A He hid
- B hid the
- C the banjo
- D banjo inside
- E inside the

# 44

They searched the patrol area systematically.

- A They searched
- B searched the
- C the patrol
- D patrol area
- E area systematically.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The alphabet is here to help you with these questions.

Find the next pair of letters in the series and mark it on the answer sheet.

**Example** CQ DQ EP FP [ ? ]

- A GP
- B GO
- C HO
- D GR
- E GQ

**Answer** GO

**Solution** The letters are grouped into pairs. The first letter in each pair is in alphabetical order: C, D, E, F. The second letter in each pair features twice in the series, and appears in reverse alphabetical order: Q, Q, P, P. Following this pattern, the next pair of letters after FP must be **GO**.

# 45

UD VF WH XJ [ ? ]

- A ZL
- B YL
- C YK
- D ZK
- E YM

# 46

ZO WL TI QF [ ? ]

- A NC
- B OD
- C MC
- D ND
- E OB

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

47

AQ CM EI GE [?]

**A** JB      **B** IB      **C** HE      **D** IA      **E** JA

48

HQ LR PS TT [?]

**A** WV      **B** UV      **C** XU      **D** XT      **E** UX

49

SG NL JP GS [?]

**A** ET      **B** UE      **C** DT      **D** DU      **E** EU

50

KM LL ML NM OO PR [?]

**A** QU      **B** RU      **C** RV      **D** QV      **E** QW

51

CQ BL ZH WE [?]

**A** SC      **B** RC      **C** TD      **D** TC      **E** SD

---

In these sentences, the word in capitals has had three letters next to each other taken out. These three letters will make one correctly-spelt word without changing their order. The sentence that you make must make sense. Mark the correct three-letter word on the answer sheet.

**Example** The cat scratched him with his **CS**.

**A** LAD      **B** LAW      **C** HAD      **D** RAW      **E** RED

**Answer** **LAW**

**Solution** The three-letter word that has been removed from CS is 'LAW'. If we place this three-letter word between C and S, it makes the word **CLAWS** and thus completes the sentence.

52

His favorite food was **CABE**.

**A** BAG      **B** GET      **C** EVE      **D** SAG      **E** BAT

53

The cars **SDED** in the bad weather.

**A** DEN      **B** KID      **C** PAR      **D** RAN      **E** LAD

54

He **BED** for more space in the room.

**A** EGG      **B** LAB      **C** ONE      **D** TUG      **E** RIP

55

The morning was spent **CLING** the garden.

**A** ROE      **B** AFT      **C** APE      **D** EAR      **E** OWE

56

I introduced my **STEPHER**.

A FAT      B MOW      C VAN      D CAP      E RAT

57

They were **OVERED** at the news.

A GAP      B NIL      C JOY      D TON      E POT

58

He gave his final **JUDENT**.

A HUM      B GEM      C ACE      D TEN      E TRY

59

Teabags have lots of **PERATIONS**.

A SET      B HIP      C FOR      D COT      E LET

---



In these questions, find the **two** words, **one** from each group, that will complete the sentence in the best way.

Mark **both** words on the answer sheet.

**Example**      **Big** is to (small orange colour) as **wide** is to (apple red narrow)

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>A</b> small  | <b>X</b> apple  |
| <b>B</b> orange | <b>Y</b> red    |
| <b>C</b> colour | <b>Z</b> narrow |

**Answer**      **small narrow**

**Solution**      In this example, 'big' is to **small** as 'wide' is to '**narrow**' is correct because the word relationships here are antonyms (opposites). For other questions, the word relationship will be something different (pay attention to word type as well as meaning) but the important thing to remember is that the first relationship will connect with the second relationship.

60

**Look** is to (eye blink see) as **listen** is to (hear tone noise)

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>A</b> eye   | <b>X</b> hear  |
| <b>B</b> blink | <b>Y</b> tone  |
| <b>C</b> see   | <b>Z</b> noise |

61

**High** is to (low far big) as **deep** is to (fall shallow water)

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| <b>A</b> low | <b>X</b> fall    |
| <b>B</b> far | <b>Y</b> shallow |
| <b>C</b> big | <b>Z</b> water   |

62

**Bus** is to (driver passengers road) as **plane** is to (airline cloud pilot)

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>A</b> driver     | <b>X</b> airline |
| <b>B</b> passengers | <b>Y</b> cloud   |
| <b>C</b> road       | <b>Z</b> pilot   |

63

**Plug** is to (sink stopper block) as **cork** is to (bottle float screw)

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>A</b> sink    | <b>X</b> bottle |
| <b>B</b> stopper | <b>Y</b> float  |
| <b>C</b> block   | <b>Z</b> screw  |

64

**Fly** is to (insect wings feathers) as **run** is to (fast person legs)

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>A</b> insect   | <b>X</b> fast   |
| <b>B</b> wings    | <b>Y</b> person |
| <b>C</b> feathers | <b>Z</b> legs   |

65

**Stitch** is to (sew needle cloth) as **stroke** is to (pat paint cat)

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>A</b> sew    | <b>X</b> pat   |
| <b>B</b> needle | <b>Y</b> paint |
| <b>C</b> cloth  | <b>Z</b> cat   |

66

**Large** is to (open spacious great) as **small** is to (confined close near)

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>A</b> open     | <b>X</b> confined |
| <b>B</b> spacious | <b>Y</b> close    |
| <b>C</b> great    | <b>Z</b> near     |

Read the following information, then find the correct answer to the question and mark it on the answer sheet.

67

A cinema is open every night from 7 pm.

The latest time a film begins is 11 pm.

Films start at 7.15 pm, 8.15 pm and 9.15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On Mondays and Wednesdays films start on the hour, every hour.

At the weekend, films start every half hour from 7 pm.

If these statements are true, only one of the sentences below **must** be true.

**Which one?**

- A No films start at 9.30 pm.
  - B On Tuesday, a film starts at 9 pm.
  - C Films start at 9.15 pm three days each week.
  - D A film starts at 9 pm on Monday, Wednesday and at the weekend.
  - E All films finish before 11 pm.
-

In these questions, there are two pairs of words.

Only one of the five possible answers will go equally well with **both** of these pairs.

Mark it on the answer sheet.

**Example** (world globe) (soil ground)  
A ball B dirt C plant D earth E universe

**Answer** earth

**Solution** The answer is 'earth'. The word 'earth' goes equally well with both pairs of words because, just as it can refer to the planet Earth (world, globe), it can also refer to the ground beneath us (soil, ground).

68 (permit allow) (rent hire)  
A grant B let C agree D use E loan

69 (wood trunk) (howl wail)  
A tree B shout C cut D bark E call

70 (resemble similar) (fond admire)  
A please B copy C enjoy D like E same

71 (token disc) (worktop surface)  
A flat B voucher C counter D sideboard E coin

72

(jump leap) (well water)

A hop      B flow      C move      D source      E spring

73

(chapter paragraph) (corridor alley)

A book      B path      C walk      D read      E passage

74

(allotment patch) (conspire plan)

A plot      B scheme      C garden      D land      E conceive

---

Three of these four words are given in code.

The codes are **not** written in the same order as the words and one code is missing.

**ANTS    BASE    LETS    BLUE**  
**5836    4172    8672**

**Solution**

To answer this sort of question, you have to work out which number represents which letter. Begin by focusing on one number which appears more than once. If this number appears in the same position in two of the codes, you might be able to spot the same pattern with the letters. If not, compare the positions of your chosen letter and see if this is reflected in the words. For example, the number 8 appears in two number codes: once in 1st position (8672) and once in 2nd position (5836). This could either be the letter A or the letter L. Factoring in the positions of the number 6 as well, the number 8 has to stand for the letter L. The number 6 stands for E. Knowing that 5836 = BLUE and 8672 = LETS we can establish what other letters stand for and answer further questions on missing words or codes.

Choose the correct answer and mark it on the answer sheet.

75

Find the code for the word **BASE**.

- A** 5836    **B** 5368    **C** 5872    **D** 5462    **E** 5426

76

Find the code for the word **EAST**.

- A** 4627    **B** 6428    **C** 6472    **D** 6427    **E** 4678

77

Find the word that has the number code **7316**.

- A** TUBS    **B** TUNE    **C** TUNA    **D** TANS    **E** TABS

Three of these four words are given in code.

The codes are **not** written in the same order as the words and one code is missing.

**KITE   INTO   PAIN   POET**  
**8457   5716   3512**

**Solution**

The same approach applies as for questions 75–77 but this time the numbers have been assigned different letters so we have to repeat the process of assigning letters to numbers. The number 5 appears three times across the number codes: in 1st position, 2nd position and 3rd position. The only letter this could be is I. We can then assign letters to all of the numbers 1–8.

Choose the correct answer and mark it on the answer sheet.

78

Find the code for the word **KITE**.

- A** 3512      **B** 5716      **C** 8621      **D** 3421      **E** 5632

79

Find the word that has the number code **8243**.

- A** PEAT      **B** PEAK      **C** TEAK      **D** TANK      **E** PENT

80

Find the code for the word **KNOT**.

- A** 3751      **B** 3761      **C** 7351      **D** 7361      **E** 3851

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